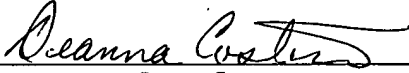


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  <b>Jerome Jay Fife et al.</b>	Atty. Docket No. 087508-0308457  SEP-001(D)
Serial No. <b>Unassigned</b>  Filed: <b>Herewith</b>	Examiner: Chester T. Barry  Art Unit: 1724
For: <b>METHOD FOR RECOVERING A DISPOSAL TRENCH WITH A BIOMAT SLIME, AND METHOD FOR OPERATING A WASTE TREATMENT VESSEL</b>	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Express Mail Label:	EV 342 482 593 US
Date of Deposit:	March 11, 2004
<i>I certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Post Office "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 35 CFR 1.10 on the above date, addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</i>	
 Deanna Costen	

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.